(b) whether similar incidents have taken place during the current year, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/propose to take to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) Yes Sir. On 22-6-97, the Radar Controller at Delhi Airport instructed the arriving Romanian aircraft to descend on Radial 255 to 17000 feet while clearing the departing Gulf Air aircraft to climb to 22000 feet on the same radial. The Romanian flight crew reduced his rate of descent as per the Traffic Collision Avoidance System advice on his aircraft.

(b) Yes, Sir. 2 similar incidents took place during the current year. The details are as follows:—

(i) Malaysian Airlines aircraft while operating on Dubai-Kualalumpur sector on 17-1-1997 made an emergency descent due to in-flight snag from 37,000 feet altitude to 29,000 feet altitude and passed through the level of Singapore Airlines flight operating on Singapore-Mumbai sector, maintaining 31,000 feet altitude. Singapore Airlines aircraft received a Traffic Collision Avoidance System warning on the aircraft and avoided the Malaysian Airlines flight by descending. The incident occurred due to in-flight emergency of the Malaysian Airlines aircraft.

(ii) Air India aircraft while departing from Delhi Airport for its flight to Mumbai on 2nd April, 1997 when climbing to 26,000 feet and United Airlines aircraft on its flight from London to Delhi while descending to 15,000 feet, had an airmiss at about 30 NM from Delhi. The Traffic Collision Avoidance System was received by both the aircraft after which United Airlines aircraft reduced its rate of descent and Air India aircraft reduced its rate of climb. The incient occurred due to cloudy weather and the Controller's failure to weather and tical separation between in two aircraf.

(c) The main steps taken to avoid chances of mid-air collision are: (i) Refresher courses to update professional knowledge of Air Traffic Controllers, (ii) Periodical proficiency checks of Air Traffic Controllers, (iii) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Mumbai airports, (iv) Proper maintenance of navigation, communication and landing facilities, and (v) Compulsory installation of ACAS in a time-bound manner on every aircraft flying in Indian skies.

**Helplessness of companies against counterfeiters**

2187. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press Report in the Tribune dated the 26th May, 1997 under the caption "Companies helpless against counterfeiters";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take against counterfeit manufacturers who are having a flourishing business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**"संघ का अमरीका पर जैविक संसाधन चुराने का आरोप" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार**

2188. डा. महेश चन्द्र शर्मा : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 9 जुलाई, 1997 की राजस्थान पत्रिका जयपुर में "संघ का अमरीका पर जैविक संसाधन चुराने का आरोप" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) इस संबंध में सच्चाई क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या भारत का इस संबंध में विश्व व्यापार संगठन से कोई शिकायत करने का विचार है ?

**वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया)** : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

**Plan to Encourage Business Opportunities in Central Asia**

2189. SHRI GOVIND RAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report in the Times of India dated the 19th July, 1997 under the caption opportunities in Central Asia";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of strategies and action plan worked out for encouraging investment in industry and business opportunities in Central Asia for developing strong economic cooperation and bilateral relationship with Central Asian countries; and

(d) the present status of the plan worked out for 1997-98 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India attaches great importance to trade and economic cooperation with the Central Asian Republics (CARs).

(c) and (d) The Government of India has signed Trade Agreements with all the five Central Asian Republics to provide an institutional framework for encouraging trade and economic cooperation. A trilateral Agreement on Transit Trade has also been signed between India, Iran and Turkmenstan to facilitate India's trade with the CARs. The mechanism of Inter-Goervnmental Commission is being operationalised to provide a bilateral forum for dscussion on matters of mutual interest including trade and investment issues. The Government of India has approved setting up of a India Business Centre at Tashkent to facilitate India's trade and investment in the region. The Apex Chambers are being encouraged to set up Joint Business Councils with their counter-parts in the CARs.

A delegation from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India and Indian Airlines visited Central Asia in April 1997 with the objective of strengthening air links with the region. A Banking Delegation from India visited Uzbekistan in February 1997. RBI has already accordede "in-principle" approval for opening a representative office of Punjab National Bank in Kazakhstan. ONGC Videsh Ltd. has ventured into oil exploration sector in Pavlodar Region in Kazakhstan.

The Government of India has provided Lines of Credit to CARs to encurage bilateral trade. The details showing credit line sanctioned cumulative disbursement by Government of India to CARs is as under :—

| S.No. | Countries | Sanctioned Credit Lines (in US $/Mn | Cumulative Disbursement(In Rs/crore) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Uzbekistan | 20 | 33.06 |
| 2 | Kazakhstan | 20 | 10.76 |
| 3 | Turkmenistan | 15 | 15.68 |
| 4 | Tajikistan | 5 | 16.02 |
| 5 | Kyrghstan | 5 | Nil |